

Daily Edition

Serving Loudon, Monroe and Surrounding Counties

Monday, June 04, 2018

Crashed into fence trying to return friend to rehab



Adam Fletcher

Adam Fletcher, 38, Indian Hills Drive Knoxville, was charged with DUI, Simple Possession, and Violation of Implied Consent. Deputy L. Anderson LCSO, responded to the area of Foster Rd in reference to a reckless driver. The complainant stated a silver Nissan Pathfinder almost struck him head on, crashed into a fence, and was attempting to leave.

see Wreck pg. 2

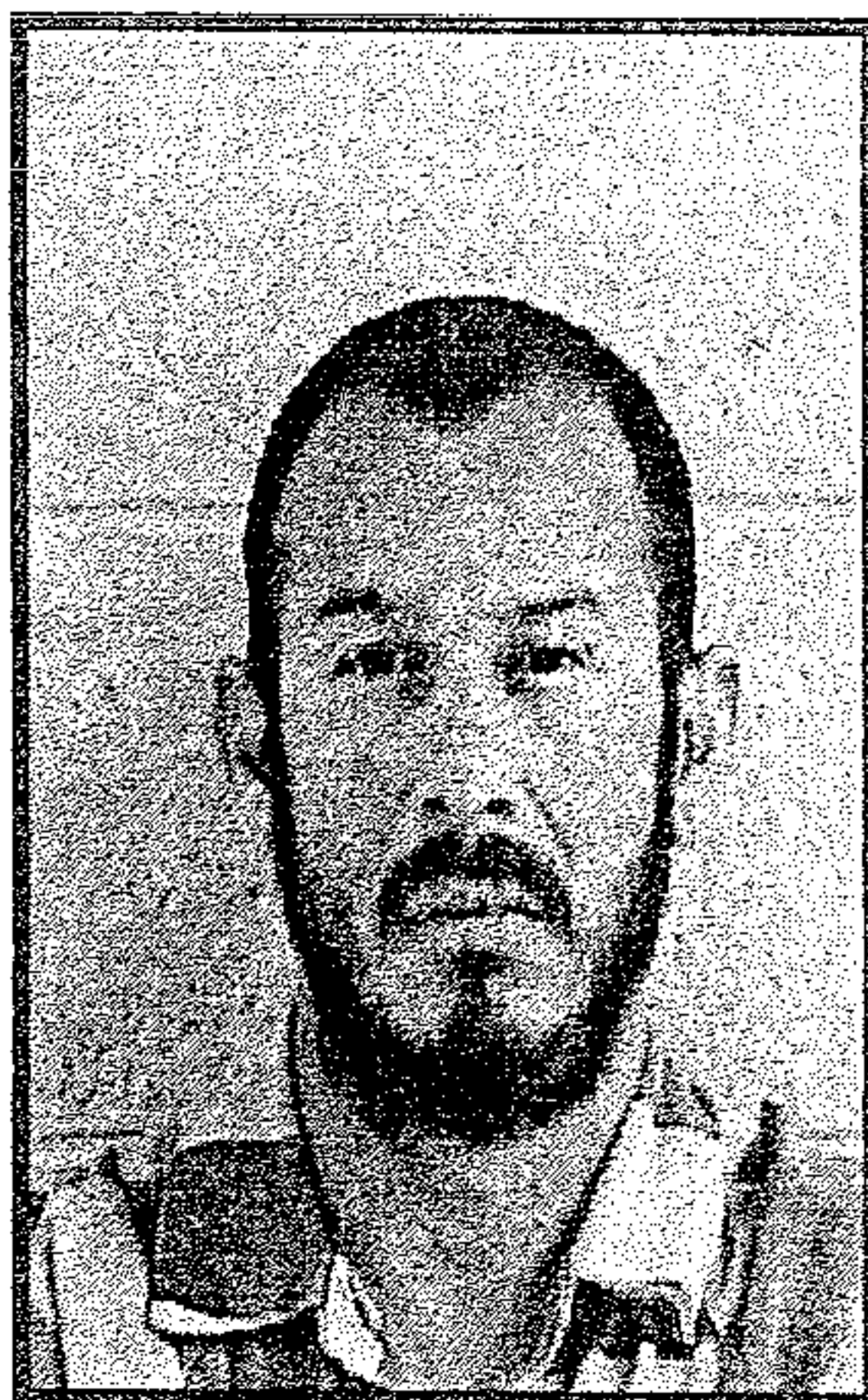
Malina Akin charged again



Malina Akin

See Akin P.4

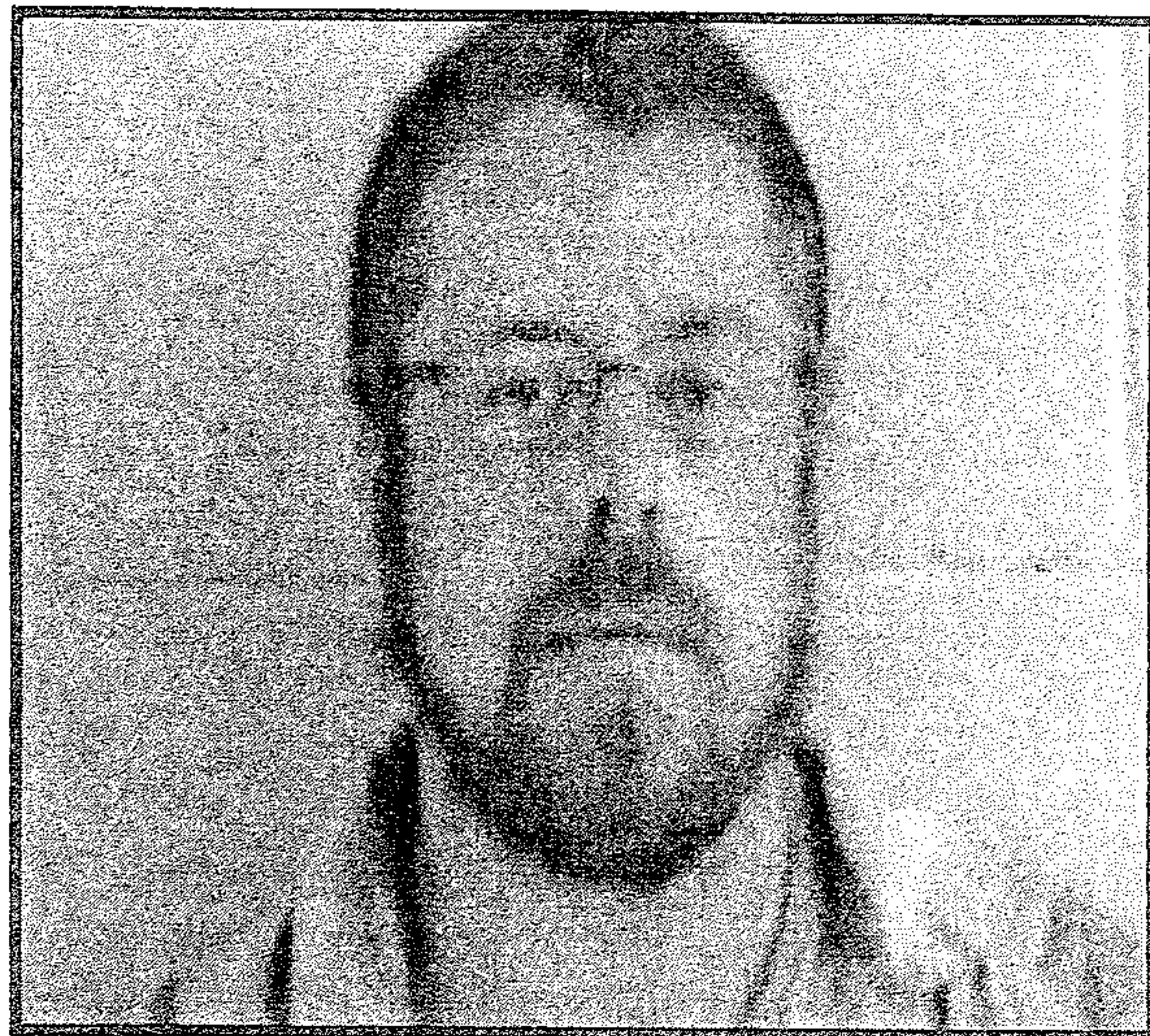
He had "alot" of alcohol



Isacc Ernest

See Alcohol p.3

DUI with a ankle monitor



Grant Durst

see DUI pg. 3

Mortgage Fraud Fugitive Back in U.S.

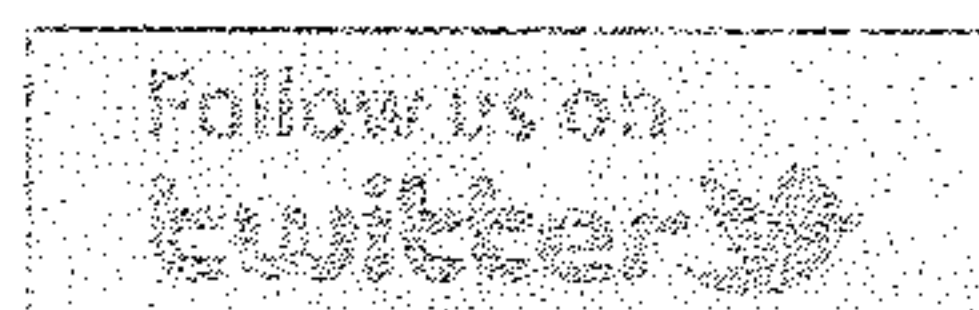
Houston Building Contractor Receives Additional Prison Time for Fleeing Prior to Sentencing

On April 24, 2017, Houston-area building contractor Oscar Cantalicio Ortiz was scheduled to appear in a Houston federal courtroom to be sentenced following his June 2016 guilty plea in connection with a multi-million-dollar mortgage fraud scheme. But it soon

became apparent that Ortiz was not going to show up for court, and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Turns out that the 53-year-old Ortiz, who was permitted out on bond pending his sentencing as long as he wore a monitoring device on his ankle, had managed

(see Fraud pg. 5)



Verse of the Day

My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry. — James 1:19

Obituaries

See P. 4

Wazzup

Congratulations to the Harris gang on joining the #boatlife crew!!! It's a well deserved escape after all this time of hard work!

Weather

Today: Sunny. High of 81F. Tonight: Clear. Low

of 59F.

Tuesday: Mostly Sunny. High of 81F.

Tuesday Night: Cloudy. Low of 60F.

Horoscopes

Taurus 4/20-5/20

Your practical plans and high ideals drive a quiet desperation today, espe-

cially if you think your moment of opportunity wont last. Oddly enough your panic is counterbalanced by your firm belief that linearity does not exist and its an illusion created by the human mind. Nevertheless, your (Continued on page 6)



Wreck

Upon arrival Deputy made contact with the crashed vehicle and driver in the middle of Foster Rd. Deputy identified the driver as Adam Fletcher, the offender. The offender stated he was lost and was trying to his friend's house to return him

to rehab. While speaking with the offender Deputy observed a brown residue around his mouth and a white residue on his tongue. The offender stated the residue was from eating at Taco Bell over an hour prior. The offender agreed to perform SFST and ARIDE. The offender performed poorly. The offender did stat-

ed he had smoked marijuana the day prior but denied using or consuming anything on this date that would impair his ability to drive. Upon consent to search the vehicle a small round blue pill with marking 031 on one side and R on the

other was found beside the driver's seat. The pill is believed to be Alprazolam 1mg schedule IV. A syringe cap was found in the rear of the front passenger seat and a section of straw with see Wreck p.7

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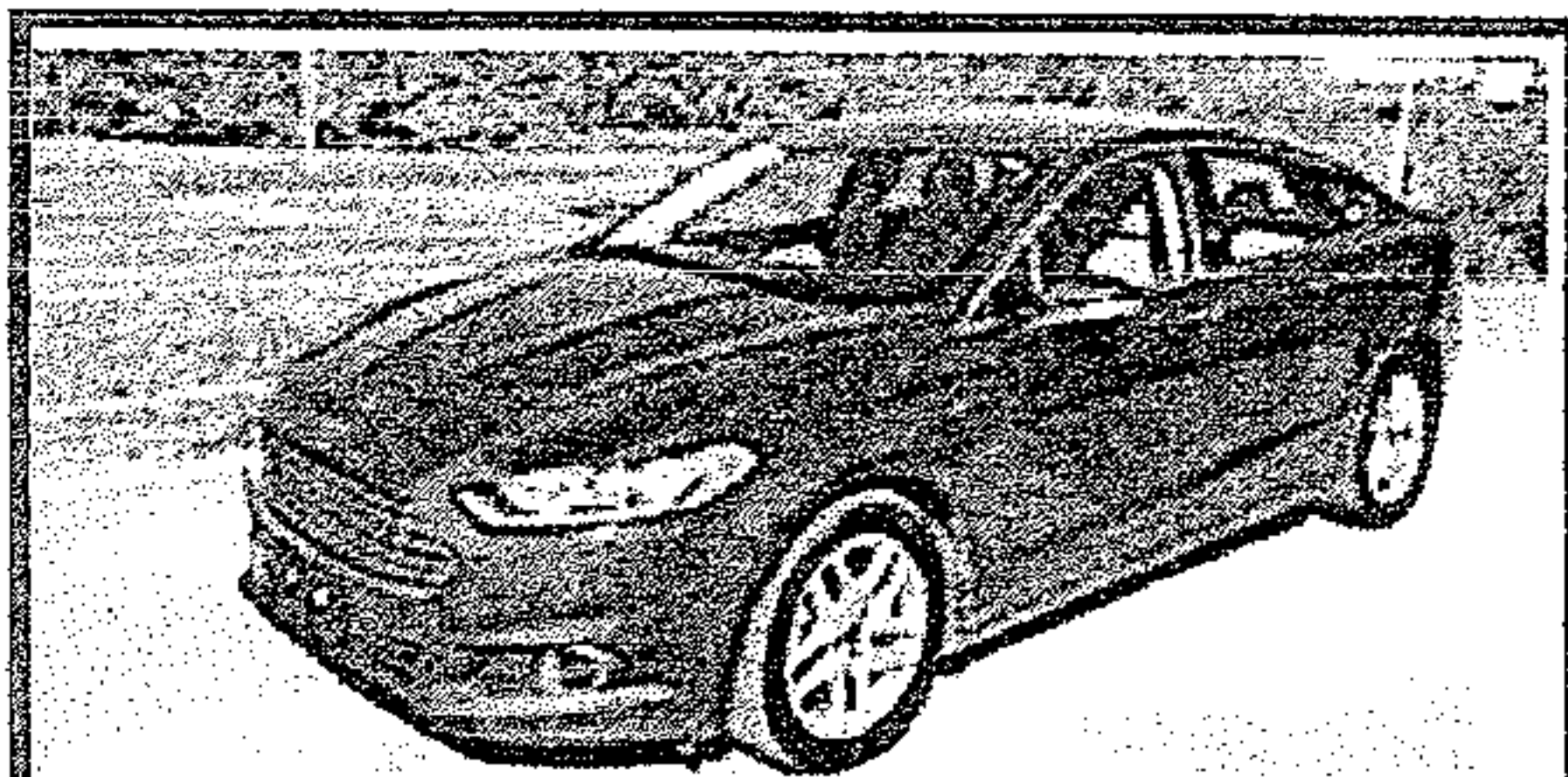
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2010 Ford F150 Platinum PKG, Power Run. Boards, NAV, Ent. PKG, Leather, Heated/Cooled Seats



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DUI

Grant Durst, 36, Donna Drive Lenoir City, as charged with DUI, Violation of Implied Consent, and Speeding 21 MPH over the Limit.

Deputy JC Schultz LCSO, and Deputy Davi Selmo LCSO, did observe a Ford Taurus driven by white male identified as Mr. Grant Durst traveling north on Hwy 321 near JB Gas Station at speed of 72 mph in a posted 45 mph radar confirmed. The vehicle was not maintaining its lane and crossed the fog line. Deputy initiated a traffic stop. Mr. Durst smelled strongly of alcohol, had red bloodshot eyes, and was unsteady on his feet and appeared intoxicated. He stated he had drank four 12 ounce beers over the previous 3 hours. Deputy conducted SFST and Mr. Durst showed 6 clues in HGN. Mr. Durst showed vertical nystagmus in both eyes. During the Walk and Turn he used arms for balance, stepped off the line twice and missed a heel-to-toe. During the One Leg Stand Mr. Durst put his foot down 2 times, lost his balance and then voluntarily quit the test. He indicated there was no point to continuing the test because he had too much to drink and was going to be arrested anyway. Mr. Durst has 2 prior convictions for DUI and Mr. Durst stated he had too much to drink to drive. Mr Durst was arrested on scene and was then explained implied consent. He refused to comply. He was transported to the Loudon County Jail by this Deputy without further incident. The vehicle was released to a licensed driver. Mr Durst had a ankle bracelet on his leg because of prior con-

victions in drug court. This did occur in Loudon County, TN.

Alcohol

Edwar Banegas, 38, Northside Drive Lenoir City, was charged with DUI, Driving on Revoked/Suspended License, and Violation of Implied Consent. Officer Green LCPD, observed a Silver Honda Accord parked near the middle of the intersection of Hwy 321 N. and Adesa. As Officer passed this vehicle he observed the driver, who appeared to be unconscious. Officer pulled in behind the vehicle and made contact with the driver which appeared dazed and confused. Officer asked this individual to exit the vehicle in order to perform SFST. As he exited the vehicle he smelled a strong odor of what Officer believed to be an alcoholic beverage. This subject was also unsteady on his feet. Prior to testing Officer asked this individual if he had ingested any narcotics or was under the influence of alcohol. This subject stated he had just left a party at his brothers house where he had consumed "alot" of alcohol. He stated he was on the way to the gas station to purchase more alcohol. Officer administered SFST in which this individual performed poorly and gave several indications of being under the influence. Officer took Mr. Banegas into custody and read him Tennessee Implied Consent in which he originally consented to but once we arrived at Fort Loudon Medical Center this individual refused to allow the nurse to gather a sample of blood. Dispatch also notified

Officer this subject's Drivers License was currently revoked for Unsatisfied Judgement with a Revocation Date of 11/27/2017. During inventory check of this vehicle prior to tow, Officer observed an open "Dos Equis" that was less than half full. Officer transported this individual to Loudon County Jail without incident where he was charged with Driving

Under The Influence, Driving on Revoked, Violation of Implied Consent. All the above occurred in Lenoir City, Loudon County, TN.

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Akin

Malina Akin, 41, Elm Street Loudon, was charged with General Session Capias x2.

Obituaries

George Falshaw

age 86, passed away Tuesday, May 29.

George was a loving and devoted husband, father, and grandfather. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Wharton school of commerce, George was an avid fisherman, hunter, and RC airplane enthusiast. He is preceded in death by his father, Reverend Thomas Falshaw, mother, Florence Falshaw, and sister, Susan Bouldin.

Survivors include his wife Amy Falshaw, son, Lloyd Falshaw, daughter in-law, Tamari Falshaw, and grandchildren Nick Falshaw and Mia Falshaw.

There will be a celebration of life service Thursday, June 7 at 11:00am at First Baptist Church - Tellico Village, 205 Chota Rd., Loudon, TN.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Tennessee Alzheimer's in George's honor. www.alztennessee.org.

Click Funeral Home & Cremations is

serving the family of George Falshaw.

Jason Hernandez sentenced to serve 21 months in prison for financial institution fraud

On May 30, 2018, Jason Hernandez, 44, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, was sentenced by the Honorable Curtis L. Collier, U.S. District Court Judge, to serve 21 months in federal prison for committing financial institution fraud.

Hernandez pleaded guilty in November 2017 to federal charges stemming from a fraudulent statement he made in relation to his bankruptcy case and a scheme to defraud multiple small private lending companies. He submitted personal financial statements, which grossly inflated his income and net worth, in order to qualify for loans. During the application process for these loans, Hernandez used social security numbers for other individuals. He filed Chapter 7 Bankruptcy in the Eastern District of Tennessee and failed to disclose these fraudulently-obtained loans on his bankruptcy petition.

The FBI investigated this case. Assistant U.S. Attorney James T. Brooks and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Nick Foster represented the United States in court proceedings.

Unemployment Rates Drop in Every County Across Tennessee

April 2018 Statistics Show Unemployment at 5 percent or Lower in All Counties Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam and Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Burns Phillips today announced county unemployment rates decreased in all 95 counties across Tennessee in April and all counties are at or below 5 percent.

"Our investments in education and workforce development are showing results in all corners of the state and to have such low unemployment rates in each county is great news for every Tennessean," Haslam said. "Tennessee will lead in job recruitment because we are focused on developing a high quality workforce."

All but one county recorded unemployment rates lower than five percent in April. Houston County's unemployment posted at 5 percent, but that is a nearly one percentage point drop from 5.9 in March.

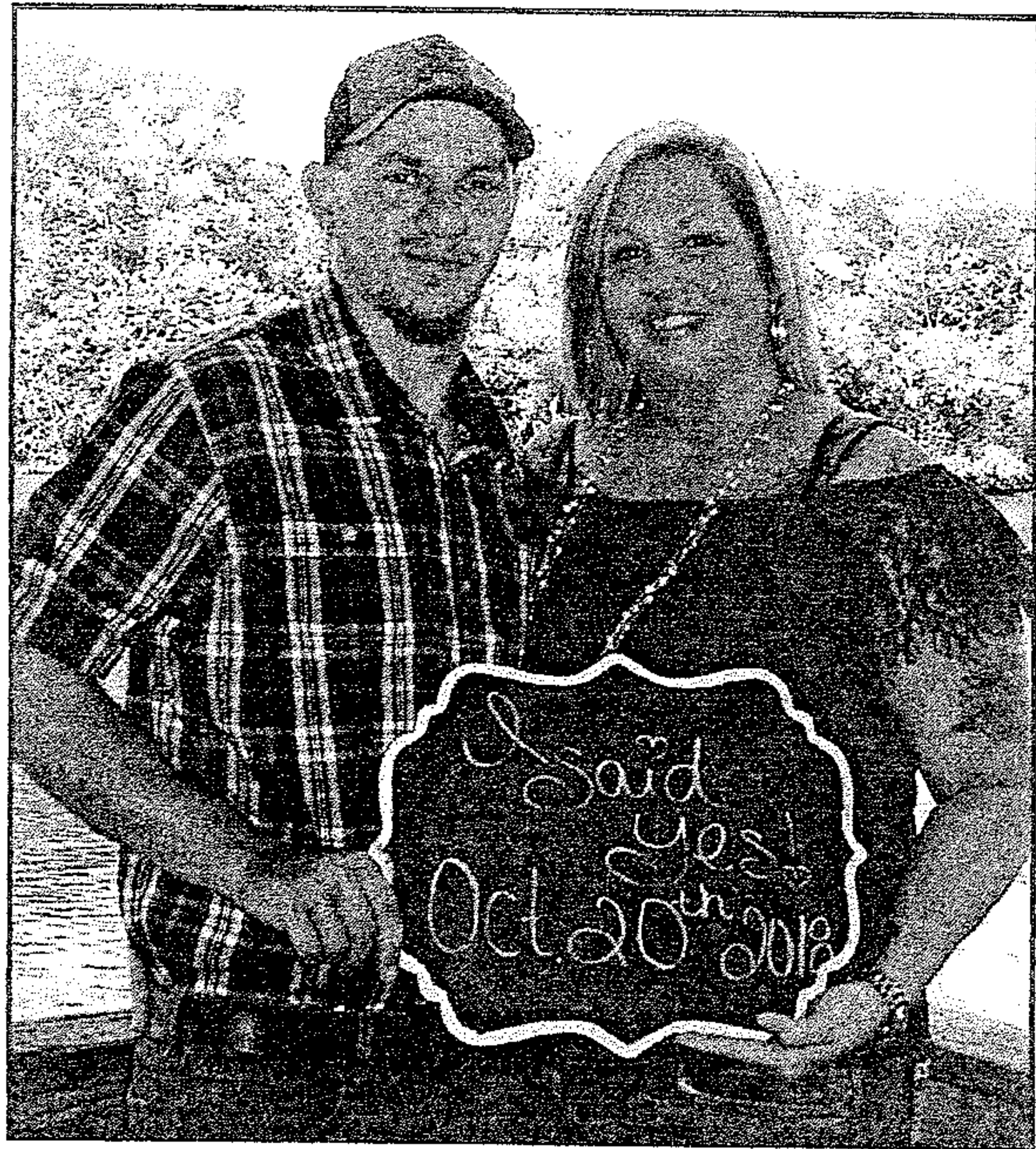
Williamson County continued to have Tennessee's lowest level of unemployment with a rate of 2 percent in April. The new figure reflects a decrease of 0.4 of a percentage point from the previous month.

Davidson County had the second lowest unemployment rate in the state at 2.1 percent, down half a percentage point from March. The top 10 counties with the lowest unemployment in Tennessee each have a rate at or below 2.5 percent. Shelby County's rate also dropped half a percentage point last month to 3.5 percent.

The counties which saw the highest unemployment during April also experienced a significant drop in unemployment. With a rate of 4.9 percent, Lauderdale County had the second highest unemployment in the state, but that figure is half a percentage point lower than the month before.

Decatur County experienced the largest drop in unemployment in April with a rate that was 1.4 percent lower than the previous month. Fourteen Tennessee counties recorded a decrease in unemployment of 1 percent or more last month.

Wedding Bells



Brenda Deniese Ward & Samuel Paul Russell both from Loudon Tennessee proudly announce their engagement. Ms Ward is the daughter of Barbara Robbins of Loudon, Mr Russell is the son of Larry Russell & Patti Thomas-Russell of Lenoir City. The Wedding will be October 20th at Old time Gospel Church, Lenoir City Tn.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Loudon County Budget Committee will meet at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, June 20, 2018 at the County Office Building in Loudon.

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Fraud

to get the device off and left it on the side of a road in southwest Houston. His abandoned car was found in a parking lot in the same part of town.

The FBI Houston Field Office—the same office responsible for investigating Ortiz's illegal activities that resulted in his guilty plea—swung into action again. According to case agent James Hawkins, "As part of the FBI's digital billboard initiative, we featured Ortiz on a number of Houston-area billboards beginning in June 2017, asking for the public's help in finding him."

While the search for Ortiz was ongoing, however, the wheels of justice didn't stop. In June 2017, the fugitive was sentenced in absentia by a federal judge to nearly 22 years in prison for his mortgage fraud scheme. He was also ordered to pay toward a \$5.4 million restitution order.

The reason for the significant prison term and restitution amount? According to Hawkins, it was because the mortgage fraud scheme that Ortiz perpetrated with Houston realtor Seung Min Santillan resulted in \$16 million worth of loans being awarded based on false

information and an actual dollar loss of \$5.4 million. FBI Houston opened its investigation into Ortiz and Santillan in late 2008. That investigation revealed that from 2005 to 2008, the two recruited so-called straw buyers with good credit who allowed their names to be used on loan applications to purchase residential properties in the Houston area. Ortiz promised the buyers that the properties would be renovated and re-sold within a short period of time, and that he and Santillan would take care of any mortgage payments and other fees during that time. "In return for their names," explained Hawkins, "the buyers would usually receive a one-time payment of around \$5,000."

Then Ortiz and Santillan submitted fraudulent loan applications to a number of lending institutions throughout the United States in the names of their straw buyers asking for up to 100 percent of the sales price of the property. To enhance the amount of money they were asking for on these loan applications, they also submitted incredibly inflated appraisal reports on the homes they wanted to purchase.

Once the loans were approved, Ortiz and Santillan used bank accounts affil-

ated with fake businesses they created to receive the dispersed funds at the closing of each sale. The sellers of the properties were paid, and the remaining loan funds—millions of dollars over the lifetime of the scam—eventually found their way into the pockets of Ortiz and Santillan.

"Which caused big problems for the straw buyers," said Hawkins. "Since the loans were in the names of the buyers, and Ortiz and Santillan had never intended to hold up their end of the bargain to make the mortgage payments, the loans eventually went into default."

The complex investigation included interviews with straw buyers and victim lending institutions, and a very close look at Ortiz's and Santillan's extensive business and personal financial records. "Both had lived the high life for a few years but burned through the money they had stolen," said Hawkins.

Ortiz and Santillan were indicted in October 2014. Santillan pleaded guilty to the conspiracy in September 2016 and was sentenced to 14 years in prison and ordered to pay \$5.4 million in restitution. And Ortiz, who may have feared a similar

fate, decided to flee just before his April 2017 sentencing.

But on August 24, 2017—approximately four months after he fled to Mexico—he turned himself in to the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City.

According to Hawkins, Ortiz told FBI agents in Mexico City that he went to Mexico to finish some sort of software project that he said would make a lot of money for his family. "But more likely," said Hawkins, "Ortiz turned himself in to the U.S. Embassy because he missed his family in Kingwood, Texas, and was desperate to reconnect with them."

And in March 2018, back in front of the same federal judge, Ortiz got an additional year and a day tacked on to his already lengthy prison term.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Lenoir City Budget Committee

The Lenoir City Budget Committee will hold the following meetings at City Hall with the purpose of preparation of the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Budget:

• *Wednesday, June 6, 2018 at 1:00 P.M.*

The public is encouraged to attend.



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Wreck ctd from p.2

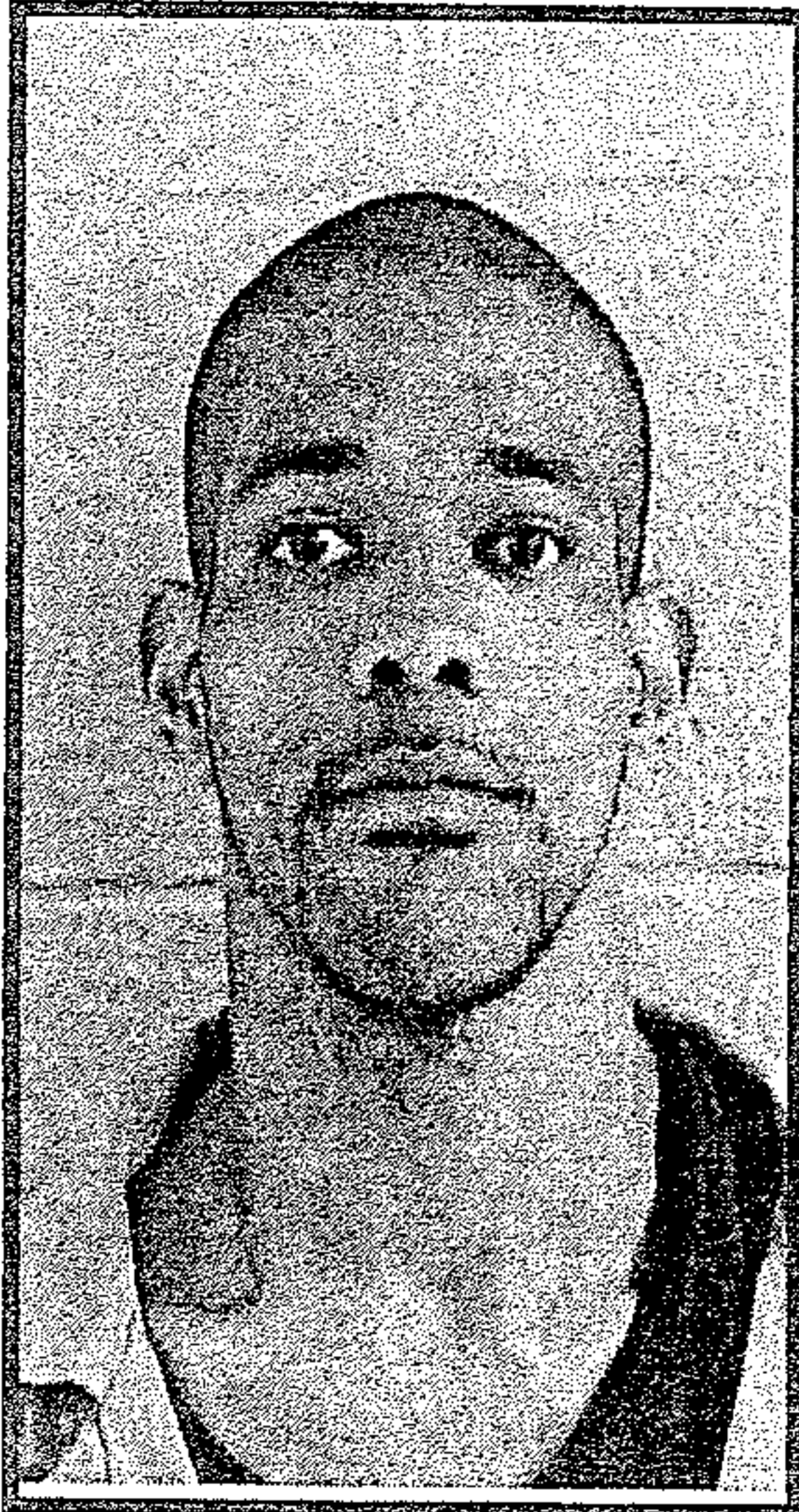
a white power residue was found behind the driver's seat. Based on the totality of circumstances the offender was taken into custody and refused implied consent. The offender was transported to the Loudon County Jail without incident. The vehicle was towed by Monkeymakers and citation # 16209 was issued. All occurred in Loudon County, TN.

Man charged with VOP

Michael Abron, 33, Donaldson Road Philadelphia, was charged with Violation of Probation.

Deputy JC Schultz LCSO, arrested Mr.

Micheal Abron after a search of the residence at Donaldson Rd in Philadelphia, Tn. He was transported to the Loudon County Jail by this Deputy without further incident. This did occur in Loudon County, TN



Michael Abron

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